

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,706

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/01/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/818,362.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 15-22 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Hammel (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,991) discloses an automatic identification of the features associated with an audio system for a vehicle based on the selection of associated bezel. The audio system includes a printed circuit board having at least one finger pad thereon in communication with a microprocessor. The bezel may have no, one or multiple programming tabs in alignment with corresponding finger pads depending upon the model of bezel chosen. Contact of the finger pads due to the programming tabs will indicate to the microprocessor which programming sequence needs to be initiated to activate the appropriate features corresponding to that particular bezel. Hamel et al. does not disclose a second set of input mechanisms each having similar characteristics that differ from a first set of input mechanisms; means for assigning operational functions of a second type to each of the second set of input mechanisms; an electronic display for indicating the assigned operational function given to each of the input mechanisms; and other limitations related to these features in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

Andrews (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,121) discloses a mobile telephone has a programmable controller for controlling the operation of the mobile telephone. A common printed circuit board is used for a variety of different models of communication devices. A control program includes a plurality of program configurations which correspond to the available models. A program selector allows the program configuration to be changed by simply interchanging a component, such as the front cover of the device. Andrews does not disclose a data link connecting the

mobile telephone with an external computer for reassigning functions of the mobile telephone using the data link; and other limitations related to these features in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

And Hohner (U.S. Patent No. 5,437,044) discloses a personal computer is programmed to create a virtual operating unit for a robotic device. When reprogramming a machine, the operating units is unplugged and the computer is plugged in. The computer can be switched between two modes. In a programming mode, the computer is used t modify the program in the robotic device microprocessor. In an operating mode, the computer mimics the operating unit to test the newly-entered program. Hohner does not disclose a data link connecting a hand held radio control device's microcomputer with an external computer; means for reassigning functions of command input devices using the data link; and other limitations related to these features in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in conjunction with all the other claimed limitations, a radio control device having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: a second set of input mechanisms each having similar characteristics that differ from a first set of input mechanisms; means for assigning operational functions of a second type to each of the second set of input mechanisms; an electronic display for indicating the assigned operational function given to each of the input mechanisms; a data link connecting a hand held radio control device's microcomputer with an external computer; means for reassigning functions of command input devices using the data link, etc., as set forth in the claims.

Also, there is no motivation to combine the references to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday to Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham

Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thupha', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

October 16, 2006